

REMARKS

Claims 11-13 and 18 are presently in the case. Claims 1-5, 8, 10 and 19 have been withdrawn from consideration and claims 6, 7, 9 and 14-17 have been cancelled by way of the present amendment. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In the outstanding Office Action, election of claims 11-13 and 18 was acknowledged; correction of the Abstract was requested; claims 11-13 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, 2nd paragraph; and claims 11-13 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,964,952 (Kunze-Concewitz).

Amendments to the Abstract

Correction of the Abstract was requested in the outstanding Office Action. To that end, an amended Abstract has been attached herein that is in the range of 50-150 words as suggested. The amended Abstract is an edited version of the original Abstract and thus, raises no question of new matter. In lieu of the amended Abstract, it is respectfully requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. Section 112 Rejections

Claims 11-13 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, 2nd paragraph. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Claims 11 and 18 have been amended to clarify the invention and provide proper antecedent basis, respectively. It is respectfully submitted that the amendment to claim 11 is supported at least by the disclosure of original claim 11 (i.e., “one-by-one surface purification system”) and at page 27, lines 1-7 of the specification. Thus, the amendments raise no question of new matter and make the claims definite. Therefore, it is requested that the outstanding rejection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. Section 102 Rejections

Claims 11-13 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Kunze-Concewitz. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Kunze-Concewitz discloses a method and device for cleaning contaminated surfaces with both water and steam.¹ Kunze-Concewitz discloses at least one steam nozzle is brought into the immediate vicinity of the surface, and in that the steam is directed in a targeted way to the surface to be cleaned via the nozzle, and the surface to be cleaned is moistened with water simultaneously with or prior to the spraying with steam.² In particular, Kunze-Concewitz discloses two surfaces **24** are sprayed with steam **16** via spray nozzles **1** from above and below.³

However, Kunze-Concewitz nowhere discloses, as claim 11 recites:

generating *mist-containing saturated steam*;
bringing said *mist-containing saturated steam* *into contact with a surface* of each of said substrates; and
spraying said mist-containing saturated steam onto said surface,

wherein said *mist-containing saturated steam* is used to purify said surface (emphasis added).

That is, though Kunze-Concewitz discloses cleaning a contaminated surface with both “water and steam” Kunze-Concewitz nowhere discloses “mist-containing saturated steam.” In addition, Kunze-Concewitz nowhere discloses two different steam processing steps of: (1) “bringing said mist-containing saturated steam into contact with a surface” and (2) “spraying said mist-containing saturated steam onto said surface,” as recited in claim 11. That there are clearly two different steam processing steps in the claimed invention is further emphasized by the following disclosure in the specification:

[w]hen steam is introduced into a processing chamber **15**, an introduction valve **12** is opened. When steam is sprayed onto a surface to be processed, a steam-spraying valve **13** is opened and steam is sprayed onto the surface **16** to be processed, through a steam-spraying nozzle **14**.⁴

In addition, the above difference is explicitly claimed in new claim 20, which finds support from the above reference to the specification. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Kunze-Concewitz does not disclose, anticipate or inherently teach the claimed invention and that claim 11, and claims dependent thereon, patentably distinguish thereover.

¹ Kunze-Concewitz at ABSTRACT.

² *Id.* at column 2, lines 15-20.

³ *Id.* at FIG. 3, column 5, lines 7-8.

⁴ See specification at page 27, lines 16-22.

Conclusion

In view of the above, examination of the claims on the merits is respectfully requested. The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

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Respectfully submitted,

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